

A BREAKABLE CONTAINER FOR GAMES**BY****CHARLES WON ET. AL.**

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a breakable container for games. More particularly, this invention relates to a breakable container for games, which is easy to produce and transport.

10

A breakable container is widely used for children's games. A typical example is the piñata, which is used at events such as birthdays, and contains candies or toys. The piñata is made of breakable material such as paper or clay. It is suspended from the ceiling or a tree and becomes

15

broken to release stuffs inside by wielding a stick, etc.

20

Since the breakable container is made to have some volume to contain toys or candies, and is usually made of light and fragile material, the breakable containers are very bulky and require large boxes and thus are difficult to transport and expensive to ship, especially overseas.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention contrives to solve the disadvantage of the prior art.

1

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER E4983222064 US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: 3/3/04
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS" MAIL POST OFFICE TO
ADDRESSEE SERVICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10 ON THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE
AND IS ADDRESSED TO MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, COMMISSIONER
FOR PATENTS, P. O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
BY: [Signature] PRINT Mindy Choi

An objective of the invention is to provide a breakable container that increases the ability of a shipper of these items to ship them in a compact manner that reduces the space required by many times the space required to send one
5 breakable container. This reduction in necessary space effectively will reduce the cost and energy required to ship the breakable container.

Another objective of the invention is to provide a breakable container for ease of storage when the item is
10 not being used.

Still another objective of the invention is to provide a breakable container that is easy to assemble.

Still another objective of the invention is to provide a breakable container that includes various decorative
15 features.

To achieve the above objectives, the present invention provides a breakable container that includes a first half, a second half, a fastener to attach the first half and the second half together, and a decorative portion. The first
20 half and the second half form a hollow main body when the first half and the second half are assembled by engaging the fastener. The decorative portion is attached to the main body. The first half and the second half are made of fragile material including paper, and plastic foam, etc.

The first half includes one or more first half projections, and the second half includes one or more second half projections that correspond to the first half projections. The first half projections and the second half projections form one or more main projections that extend from the main body when the first half and the second half are assembled by engaging the fastener. The decorative portion includes one or more decoration enclosures, each of the decoration enclosure includes a connecting end that is attached to the main projection.

Preferably, the decoration enclosures are cone-shaped, and the decoration enclosures are attached to the main projections with adhesive tapes that are pre-installed on the main projections.

The fastener includes a plurality of fixing projections provided on the first half along the mating line between the first half and the second half, and a plurality of fixing recesses provided on the second half along the mating line between the first half and the second half. The fixing projections are inserted into the fixing recesses and fit tight with each other when the first half and the second half are assembled. Particularly, the fixing projections are provided on the first half projections, and

the fixing recesses provided on the second half projections.

The fastener may further include a flexible hinge positioned between the first half and the second half, and
5 integrated with the first half and the second half. Specifically, the flexible hinge is provided between one of the first half projections and the second projection that mates with the first half projection on which the flexible hinge is provided.

10 Part or all of the main projections extend radially from the main body in a plane along which the first half and the second half are mated. In addition to this, some of the main projections may extend from the main body in a direction perpendicular to the plane along which the first
15 half and the second half are mated.

The decorative portion may further include one or more decorative sheets that are attached to the main body.

The breakable container further includes a string attached to the main body, so that the breakable container
20 can be suspended in the air.

The advantages of the present invention are: (1) a breakable container that consists of halves so the halves are foldable on each other for space efficiency; (2) a breakable container that consists of halves that when the

halves are attached together provide the same use as an one-piece breakable container; (3) a breakable container that is convenient and inexpensive to ship because the halves are foldable over each other; (4) a breakable container that saves space and is easy to store; a breakable container that is easy to assemble; and (5) a breakable container that provides various combinations of decorations that attracts children and increases retail value of the container.

Although the present invention is briefly summarized, the fuller understanding of the invention can be obtained by the following drawings, detailed description and appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is an illustrative elevation view of a breakable container according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an elevation view of a main body of the breakable container;

FIG. 3 is an elevation view of a cone-shaped decoration enclosure;

FIG. 4 is a plan view of a first half and a second half that form the main body;

5 FIG. 5 is an elevation view of the first half and the second half;

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 6-6 in FIG. 4;

10 FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 7-7 in FIG. 4;

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 8-8 in FIG. 4;

15 FIG. 9 is an illustrative elevation view of a breakable container according to the second embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 10 is an illustrative elevation view of a breakable container according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

20

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIGS. 1-8 shows a breakable container **10** according to the first embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 1 shows that the breakable container **10** is suspended from a ceiling **12** with a string **14**. FIGS. 2, 4 and 5 show that the

breakable container **10** includes a first half **16**, a second half **18**, a fastener **20** to attach the first half **16** and the second half **18** together, and a decorative portion **22**. The first half **16** and the second half **18** form a hollow main
5 body **24** when the first half **16** and the second half **18** are assembled by engaging the fastener **20**. The decorative portion **22** is attached to the main body **24**. The first half **16** and the second half **18** are made of fragile material, so that the breakable container **10** may be used in games, like
10 a piñata in a birthday party. The hollow main body **24** is used to contain candies or small toys, and the hollow main body **24** is breakable by wielding a stick, etc. The fragile material, of which the main body **22** is made, includes paper, plastic foam, Styrofoam and any other soft and
15 breakable material. The string **14** is attached to the main body **24**.

FIGS. 4 and 5 show that the first half **16** includes one or more first half projections **26**, and the second half **18** includes one or more second half projections **28**. The first
20 half projections **26** and the second half projections **28** form one or more main projections **30** that extend from the main body **24** when the first half **16** and the second half **18** are assembled by engaging the fastener **20**.

The decorative portion **22** includes one or more decoration enclosures **32**. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, there are five decoration enclosures **32**, and the decoration enclosures **32** are cone-shaped. FIG. 3 shows that each of
5 the decoration enclosures **32** includes a connecting end **34** that is attached to the main projection **30**. FIG. 2 shows that the decorative portion **22** further includes one or more decorative sheets **62** that are attached to the main body **24**. The decoration enclosures **32** or the decorative sheets **62**
10 may include photographs or designs of famous characters, and paper or fabric tassels, pleats, etc.

FIGS. 4, 5, 7 and 8 show that the fastener **20** includes a plurality of fixing projections **36** provided on the first half **16** along the mating line **40** between the first half **16**
15 and the second half **18**, and a plurality of fixing recesses **38** provided on the second half **18** along the mating line **40** between the first half **16** and the second half **18**. The fixing projections **36** are inserted into the fixing recesses **40** and fit tight with each other when the first half **16** and
20 the second half **18** are assembled. Specifically, the fixing projections **36** are provided on the first half projections **26**, and the fixing recesses **38** provided on the second half projections **28**.

FIGS. 4-6 show that the fastener **20** further includes a flexible hinge **42** positioned between the first half **16** and the second half **18**. The flexible hinge **42** is integrated with the first half **16** and the second half **18** so that the
5 halves **16**, **18** and the flexible hinge **42** can be molded or formed as a single piece in a state shown in FIGS. 4 and 5.

Specifically, the flexible hinge **42** is provided between one of the first half projections **26** and the second half projection **28** that mates with the first half projection **26**
10 on which the flexible hinge **42** is provided.

FIGS. 1 and 2 show that the decoration enclosures **32** are attached to the main projections **30** with patches of adhesive tapes **44** that are pre-installed on the main projections **30**.

15 In the first embodiment shown in FIGS. 1-5, the main projections **30** extend radially from the main body **24** in a plane **46** along which the first half **16** and the second half **18** are mated.

In order to use the breakable container **10**, the first
20 half **16** and the second half **18** are assembled with the fastener **20**. Before fitting the fixing projections **36** into the fixing recesses **38**, candies or toys are filled in the first half **16** and the second half **18**. Then after assembling the halves, a lining paper, which is provided on each of

the adhesive tapes **44** are removed, and decoration enclosures **32** are put on the main projections **56**. Candies can also be filled into the decoration enclosures **32** before they are attached to the main body **24**. The decoration

5. enclosures **32** are fixed on the main projections **56** with the adhesive tapes **44**.

FIG. 9 shows a breakable container according to the second embodiment of the invention. Only a main body **48** is shown for clarity. The main body **48** includes a first half

10 **50** and a second half **52**, which are mated with each other. The main body **48** includes one or more main projections **54** that radially extend from the main body **48** in a plane **58** along which the first half **50** and the second half **52** are mated. The main body **48** also includes one or more main

15 projections **56** that extend from the main body **48** in a direction perpendicular to the mating plane **58**. Other details of the main body **48** of the second embodiment are the same as those of the main body **24** of the first embodiment.

20 FIG. 10 shows a breakable container **60** according to the third embodiment of the invention. The breakable container **60** includes a main body **64**, main projections **66** that extend from the main body **64**, and decoration enclosures **68**, **70**, **72** are that are fitted onto the main projections **66**. The main

body 64, the main projections 66, and the decoration enclosures 68, 70, 72 resemble a shape of an animal when they are assembled together. Other details of the main body 64, the main projections 66, and the decoration enclosures 5 68, 70, 72 are the same as those of the first embodiment.

With the above construction, a breakable container, which is very simple and convenient to produce, and consumes far less storage space, is provided. The first half and the second half can be molded and formed as a single piece, and 10 the halves can be stacked one another.

While the invention has been shown and described with reference to different embodiments thereof, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that variations in form, detail, compositions and operation may be made 15 without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the accompanying claims.